Contents: Coming Out, Book Reviews, Poetry, Answer Amazons

NORTH Bi NORTHWEST

Newsletter of the Seattle Bisexual Women's Network, a member project of Gay Community Social Services

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 1994 VOLUME 7, NUMBER 5

Breaking the news about being Bi

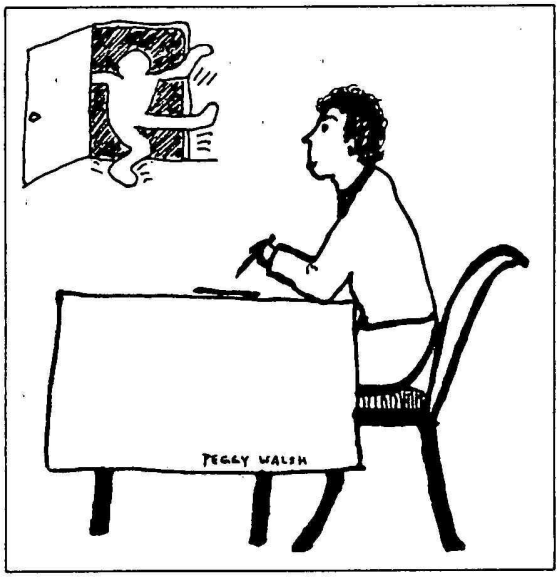
October 11

Dear Mom & Dad,

I wanted to write this down to make sure I say everything I mean to say. When I got together with cousin Elizabeth last month, we had a nice talk about how we've noticed our families have difficulty communicating about certain issues, most particularly those which are very personal to each of us. I don't believe this is anyone's "fault," but more or less a result of the social environment our families grew up in. I at least take partial responsibility for my contribution to this lack of communication since I've often rationalized my own discomfort in discussing certain matters by convincing myself that "Mom & Dad probably don't want to know about this anyway."

But living so far away for the past ten years has begun to make me feel more emotionally distant from you than I ever wanted to get, and since I'm the one who moved away, I feel like it's my place to do something about it. This requires me to let you know more about me than I've deemed necessary in the past.

Specifically, I need to let you know that I am attracted to guys as well as girls, and have been for the past 20 years. This isn't something that was caused by anything anyone said or did, and I long ago gave up wishing for these feelings to just "go away" because I've found it's much easier and healthier to be who I really am. In fact, the only problem this has caused in my life was the steady destruction of my self-esteem which I allowed to occur during my own period of denial. This eventually manifested itself in some unfortunate and unhealthy ways, including excessive drinking, and placing myself in vulnerable situations without admitting to myself what I was doing.



My first breakthrough came in 1986 when I finally told Terry, who was my roommate at the time, what I had been dealing with for years. Part of me expected to be thrown out of the apartment, but Terry was very understanding, and tried to help by suggesting different groups and people I could talk to. It's been a long process that I'd be happy to talk to you about, but eventually I found help, and more importantly, I have found community with several good friends and acquaintances (straight, gay, and bisexual) who are all perfectly comfortable and accepting of me for who I am.

This isn't exactly like telling someone you're gay, or you're getting married, because it doesn't carry the implications of a partner. Although there have been a few people over the years of both sexes I have been interested in, I have not yet found a person I would consider for a life-long partner, and I'm not putting any pressure on myself to find one at this point. To me, that's not an issue of sexual orientation, it just has to do with how people connect. As I said before, the only reason I'm even bringing this up is because I feel I've unfairly "edited" my life from the two most important people in the world to me, and I've decided to tear down the wall I've unintentionally built between us in the process. Of course in every process, there are risks involved, but in this case I thought the risks were worth it because I love both of you, and have never doubted for a minute that you loved me.

For years, I didn't want to tell you about this because I thought you would be upset, and I've only wanted you to be proud of me, and never have to worry about me unnecessarily. But as I've struggled with this to finally become accepting of myself, I've realized that the struggle itself is something to be proud of, and I've longed for a way I could share that with you. You have been the best parents any child could have had the good fortune to have been raised by. You have been more supportive, generous, compassionate, and patient with me than I'm sure I deserve. I know you have very strong feelings about this subject, and so I can not expect your acceptance or approval, but I will always need your love and support, I ask for your respect, and I pray for your understanding.

Your Loving Child ▼

More 'Outings' on page 8

Join! $10-50/year, sliding scale.
I want to wear my bisexuality in my wallet. Make me a card carrying bisexual! Enclosed is $_____ for a one-year membership.

Subscribe! $10/year, flexible.
I want to receive the latest bi news, opinions, writing and art six times a year. Enclosed is $_____ for a one-year subscription.

Total enclosed: _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Prov _____

Zip/Postal Zone _____ Phone (optional) _____

How did you hear about us? _____

All contributions are tax-deductible
Please enclose cash, or checks made payable to SBWN
Send to: SBWN, PO Box 30645, Greenwood Station, Seattle, WA 98103-0645

Join the Seattle Bisexual Women's Network and become a card-carrying bisexual!

This certifies that
Your Name Here
is a card carrying
BISEXUAL
and is a member in good standing of
The Seattle Bisexual Women's Network
Date — SBWN Coordinating Committee

Memberships are $10-50 a year on a sliding scale, and are open to women everywhere. Members are entitled to discounts on events and purchases. See mail-in form above.

SBWN Statement of Purpose

We are a group of women from diverse backgrounds working to create a feminist bisexual support network and to promote, in both the heterosexual world and in the lesbian/gay community, the understanding and acceptance of bisexuality as one of many valid sexual identities.

We regard ourselves as part of the community that is united against heterosexism and homophobia. We are dedicated to the right of all people to define their own sexuality, free from any social, political, or economic coercion. The discriminations we face on the bases of our gender and our sexuality are not the only forms of oppression. We recognize that oppression is non-hierarchical and that none of us is free until all of us are free. We are invested in the feminist struggle to transform our culture into one free of all forms of bigotry, hatred, and exploitation.

We seek to provide a safe place for women to explore all aspects of their sexual orientation and identity. All women are welcome to attend SBWN activities. We are exclusively a women's group in order to create a safe space for women's expression and leadership. We come together to affirm ourselves and our choices.

North Bi Northwest *is the bimonthly newsletter of the Seattle Bisexual Women's Network. It is produced by women and is feminist in content. We feature news and events pertinent to the bisexual community, as well as creative writing, artwork, and an advice column.*

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We welcome submissions from women and men that concern feminism, politics, sexuality, or anything of interest to bisexual women. Help define our culture! Share your histories, anger, pleasure, energy. Send us your essays, poetry, photographs, drawings, book reviews, short stories, interviews, media reports, rants, cartoons, erotica, journals, theory, conversations and letters. You're important to us and what you have to say is important to everyone.

We accept input on disk with *hard copy (Mac or PC), typed, or handwritten if it's legible. If you send us something to print, you get a free issue; send six and get a year's subscription! Let us know what pseudonym you use, if you do not want to publish under your everyday name.*

Views expressed in North Bi Northwest *are those of individual authors and do not necessarily represent the views of SBWN. Inclusion in this publication does not indicate author's sexual orientation.*

Deadline for submissions to the next issue: October 31. (see address above).

North Bi Northwest is printed on bi paper! (50% recycled).

North Bi Northwest

Editorial Team:
Peggy Walsh,
Lizabeth Coller, Lisa Coyote

Distribution:
Bettykay, Denise O.
and volunteers

Seattle Bisexual
Women's Network
PO Box 30645
Greenwood Station
Seattle WA 98103-0645

SBWN can always use volunteers to help with a variety of tasks. Give us a call or talk to a facilitator at a meeting.

North Bi Northwest is available by subscription (see above) or at area bookstores and newsstands, including: in Seattle, **Red and Black Books, Beyond the Closet, Bailey Coy Books, Fremont Place Book Company**, and in Tacoma, **Imprints**.

North Bi Northwest is a publication of the Seattle Bisexual Women's Network, a member project of Gay Community Social Services, PO Box 22228, Seattle, WA 98122-0228. (Not for correspondence with SBWN or North Bi Northwest).

From the Editors...

As the season of fall comes into sharp focus and the days rapidly shorten, the time becomes ripe for introspection. Here are some questions for SBWN attendees to ponder: What does SBWN mean to you? Why do you participate? What do you get out of it? SBWN is constantly changing, probably more than most organizations since our structure is so anarchic in nature. We can evolve in the flaccid way of the unconscious, just letting events take their course, or we can make conscious and concrete choices about what this organization can do for THIS group of women that we now are.

A lot of the women who attend consistently have been with the group a year or less (by my observation), so there are a lot of new voices and new ideas. But there are also women who attend once or twice, speak enthusiastically during the meetings at which they attend about the group, and then are not seen anymore. I wonder if our organization could be doing more for bi women that it currently is doing. I would like to hear women in SBWN discuss this amongst ourselves.

SBWN can easily contain a greater number (or lesser number) of activities than it now supports. We already have a feminist reading group. In September we had a self-defense class. Potlucks and hot-tub parties occur from time to time. The question I ask is, do we want different things from SBWN?

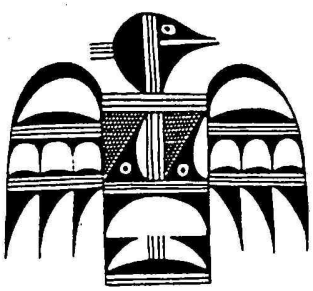
One whole side of bisexual community is political action and, aside from marching in the Pride parade and having a booth at International Women's Day, we don't put a lot of energy in this pursuit. Another angle is smaller support groups where we can support each other more intimately in the confusing journey of being bi. We could also hold meetings/gatherings with the bisexual men's group. There are a million other things that SBWN could be doing, if we want them to happen.

We'll be discussing all of this in the context of Bisexual Community at a Sunday night meeting in December. I encourage women to engage each other before then in conversations about their own social and emotional needs for community. One locale could be regular organizational meetings. Both a board meeting and a facilitator's collective meeting are coming up in November. And there's always the Honey Bear discussions!

The energy that runs SBWN is generated by the passions and interests of the women who show up and speak up. That means you! The idea that you have has probably occurred to someone else. And maybe I never in a million years would think of participating in an activity that resonates with you, but I am so jazzed by your conviction that I think, "Why did it take so long for me to hear about this?"

It's easy to slip into the Lesbian community to get some needs met, and then silently participate in heterosexual activities to get other things you need, but really SBWN is a necessary place for Seattle women. Let's think of ways to keep it going as a vital institution.

For the next issue of *North Bi Northwest* we would like to hear from you on the subject of appearance: how your attraction to someone is affected by how they look; how your own looks affect how you feel about yourself; how important is this issue in deciding who you hang out with....



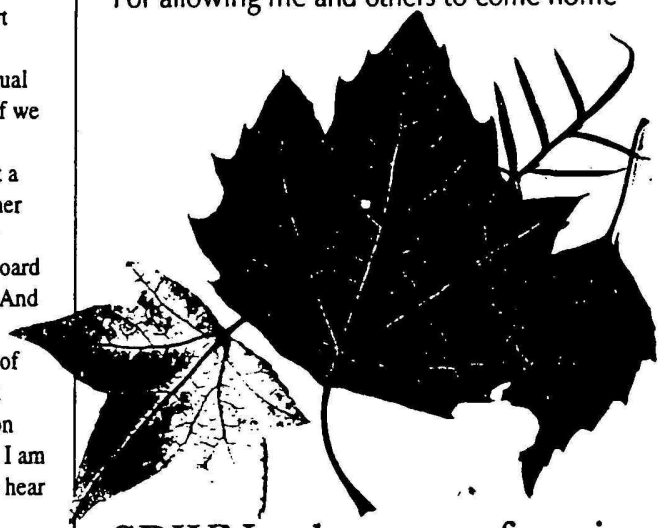
Ode to SBWN

by L.H.

This life is constantly changing
Newcomers are excitingly meeting
To learn life's sexuality meanings
What once was familiar and known
Is now foreign and clear no more

To cope with life and have fun living
One must meet change and start dreaming
With an open mind and an upbeat feeling
And the help and advice of many women
Who are willing to share and to bond

Caring women who provide the opportunity
For all newcomers to evolve in safety
In an atmosphere full of care and dignity
Thanks to all the wonderful women of SBWN
For allowing me and others to come home



SBWN sub-groups forming

There are currently a couple of opportunities for joining small, closed, more personally focused support groups, adjunct to SBWN, to run for a self-chosen finite time.

One is for women to discuss surviving rape, though not in a crisis-intervention context. The plan is to start with a discussion of *Still Loved by the Sun: A Rape Survivor's Journey*, by Migael Scherer, and go on to discuss how rape affects our lives, how we dealt with it, how 'out' we are about it now.

The other is more general-purpose, discussing major life changes, personal integration, in a safe, supportive environment. It would be more intimate and focused on the individual than the SBWN general meetings.

Contact a facilitator, or leave a message on our phone line for more information or to be put on the list(s).

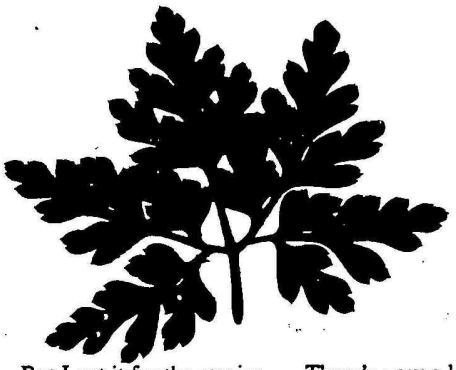
Things to Read...

SBWN has a copy of the **Greater Vancouver, BC, Business Association** directory for 1994-95 in the meeting box. It's similar to the GSBA Directory here in Seattle. If you're planning a trip, take a look; it's always a great idea to support queer businesses anywhere you go!

A new bisexual newsletter is available, called ***Bi Lines***, from the **Richmond, VA**. Bisexual Network, known as ROBIN (cute!). Subs are $6; write to ICU2 Publications, 3310 Ellwood Ave. #D, Richmond, VA 23221. We hope to get a trade going, so look for it in the mail box.

We say good-bi to ***Broomstick,*** **a journal by, for, and about women over 40.** They last published in 1993, but have a huge backlog of inventory, over fifteen years worth of back issues. For a listing and an index of topics, send a SASE to: Broomstick, 3542 18th St #3, San Francisco, CA 94110.

Blue Stockings is back! The Unabashedly Feminist news-magazine is now quarterly, and as good as ever. For a sample send $3, or for a subscription send $10/year, to PO Box 4525, Portland, OR 97208. The most recent issue had Hothead Paisan, a comic by Ellen Forney, and 122 words for Female Masturbation....



But I get it for the stories.... There's now a lesbian equivalent to *Playboy!* Called ***Girlfriends***, it's part lifestyles magazine, part erotic journal, and may be the lesbian publishing success story of the year. Subscriptions to the bimonthly are $34/year; write to Girlfriends Magazine, PO Box 713, Half Moon Bay, CA 94109. No mention made of airbrushing....

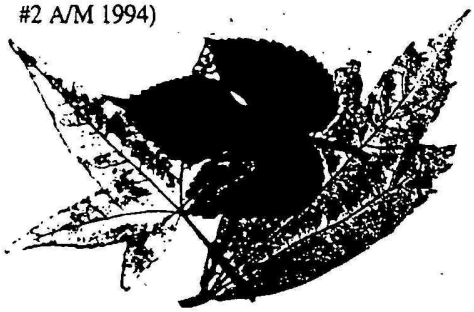
For what seems a more realistic view of the world, try ***Big Girl,*** a girl 'zine that's a bit like a diary. Allison, the publisher, is fat, feminist, bisexual, and shares her impressions of the cultural standards of body image. It's humorous and insightful. Send $2 and 2 stamps for issue #1, #2 OR the upcoming #3, to Big Girl, c/o Alleee, 9409 15th Ave. NE, Seattle WA 98115.

Both Sides Now, from Maui, has an occasional bisexual column titled **'Bi-Lines'** and an excellent feature titled 'Crackin' The Closet Door,' for readers to share their coming out stories. Maui seems to have a bi community worth checking out. Hmmm, what's the current air fare to Hawaii?

Women's Work, a great monthly newsletter out of Snohomish County, had a recent article on Solo Parenting. "The term Solo Parenting was a deliberate choice. SOLO because it denotes a start position,... It's a more positive attribute than "single," which tends to mean "half" or "broken." We chose PARENTING because it does not denote gender." For those interested in exploring this alternative approach, call Solo Parenting Alliance at (206) 720-1655. (Women's Work, V4 #1/2, J/A '94)

Out of Wisconsin comes ***Feminist Collections,*** a quarterly publication of women's studies resources. They offer book reviews, articles on out-of-the-way materials (microfilm, audio-visuals), and other interesting things. A year's subscription includes: a quarterly collection of the table of contents from 100 women's studies journals and magazines, called *Feminist Periodicals;* and a semi-annual bibliography of new books in English from sources around the world. All this for $26/year. Write to University of Wisconsin System Women's Studies Librarian, 430 Memorial Library, 728 State St., Madison, WI 53706.

Bisexual Characters in Film: From Anais to Zee is an upcoming book by Wayne Bryant, Bisexual activist from Boston. The excerpt I read was very good, talked about actresses I knew and didn't know. I'm not sure how detailed the book will be, but I'm sure SBWN could be talked into buying one, for someone to review. Any volunteers? (BiWomen, V12 #2 A/M 1994)

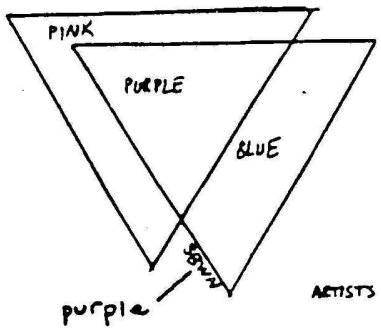


Did the Catholic church once condone same-sex marriage? ***Same Sex Unions in Premodern Europe,*** by John Boswell and published by Villard Books, says YES! According to Boswell, two men were married by a priest from what is now the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches. And Garry Trudeau, author of "Doonesbury" got into this too. He made mention of this history in a strip, which was cancelled by several newspapers. Don't you love how all this gets around! (Angles 03 August 1994 and XTRA West No 25 July 29, 1994)

For lighter reading, try **Martina Navratilova's first work of fiction,** ***The Total Zone.*** It's a mystery, with a female protagonist. No mention of whether she's a lesbian.... Anyone want to review this for *North Bi Northwest?*

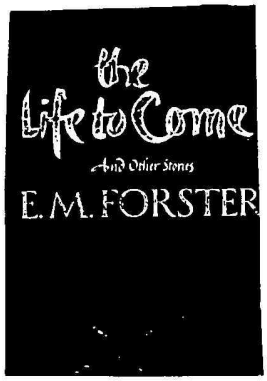
COMING OCTOBER 11: THE BISEXUAL LOGO T-SHIRT! AVAILABLE IN TWO COLORS: BLACK AND HEATHER GREY. SIZES ARE LARGE, X-LARGE, AND OVER-SIZE (APPROXIMATELY 4X-LARGE). PRICED AT $12 EACH, SBWN MEMBWERS MAY BI THE SHIRTS FOR ONLY $10 (A 15% SAVINGS, WE TOLD YOU MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS PRIVILEGES!)

GET THEM AT SBWN MEETINGS AND AT NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY CELEBRATIONS. WE CAN ALSO MAIL THEM FOR AN ADDITIONAL $2 POSTAGE AND HANDLING.



WEAR OUR COLORS WITH BISEXUAL PRIDE!

Off The Library Shelf...



The Life to Come, and Other Stories

by E. M. Forster
W. W. Norton & Co. Inc., 1972
Review by Peggy Walsh

These are over a dozen stories, only two published in Forster's lifetime. One reason they were not publicised is their homosexual theme. A number of the stories treat societal homophobia, or one's own self-censure, and characters' thus suffering. Others are more playful, mischievous.

The writing reflects the racism and classism common in English culture in the late 19th and early 20th centuries; many of the references seem to be tongue-in-cheek, though still offensive. Social tension builds between peerage and rustics or commoners.

There's sex, much of it homosex among men; to be expected, given the author's being a gay man, and the stories being written between 1903 to 1957.

In *What Does It Matter? A Morality,* after a comedy of potentially embarrassing faux pas, a Manifesto was drafted and affixed to the principal public buildings in the capital. It read as follows:

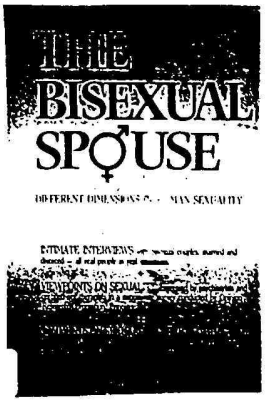
Fellow Citizens! Since all of you are interested in the private lives of the great, we desire to inform you that we have all three of us had carnal intercourse with the President of the Republic, and are hoping to repeat it.

Charlotte Schpiltz (housewife)
Sonia Rodoconduco (artiste)
Mirko Bolnovitch (gendarme)

That is: his wife, his 'actress' mistress, and a military guard.

My favorite in this collection for years has been *The Obelisk*, in which husband and wife, in a resort town, try to decide whether to hike up the cliff to see the local monument. After much dithering, they hook up with a pair of sailors. Along the way they split up, each with one of the sailors, heading for the obelisk. The wife was persuaded by her sailor into a little detour off the trail, where he has his way with her. It was so wonderful, she then had her way with him. But then, uh oh! What to tell her husband when they met again at the bus stop, not having seen one another at the obelisk? There was a great babble of confusion when they met, questions and puzzlement and bluffing, but all agreed that they'd seen the obelisk and now all was well.

While awaiting the bus, the wife went to a kiosk to buy a postcard of the Obelisk, so if the topic came up again she would know what it looked like. The clerk said, 'Well, you won't have seen that today! Will you?' The wife nearly keeled over in shock! It turns out that the obelisk had fallen over in a landslide the previous week! Hmm.... If *she* couldn't have seen the Obelisk her husband couldn't have seen it either, if *she* had dawdled on the way up *he* must have dawdled too, if *she* was lying *he* must be lying, if *she and a sailor*....



The Bisexual Spouse: Different Dimensions in Human Sexuality

Edited by Ivan Hill
Published by Barlina Books.
Review by Lisa Coyote

The Bisexual Spouse is a fascinating book for anyone taking a hard look at their sexuality. The editor interviewed a series of couples and tells the stories of how they coped with evolving bisexuality in their marriages. Both partners are interviewed and each is allowed to tell their own story, so the reader gets a sense of both disappointment and excitement from the drama.

In most cases, the partner who "comes out" as bisexual ends up defining him or herself exclusively as homosexual. In this way, the book's title is somewhat deceptive. However, there are cases where people begin to live true bisexual lifestyles.

It is fascinating to read case after case of a person's growing awareness of bisexual impulses; some people come into their true sexuality at a much later age than others. Another point the book brings home is that people crave to fit into societal norms, and in several case studies people speak of the shock of learning that their "perfect marriage" really isn't quite so storybook.

Part Two of the book contains results of a questionnaire offered to mental health professionals about sexuality. The questions included ones such as, "Can homosexuality be modified toward heterosexuality?" and, "In your opinion, what causes homosexuality?" After a cursory glance, I skipped this part.

This book is available through the Seattle Public Library.

Things to Write...

Kisses:

Editor seeks **personal essays on significant kisses**—the best, worst, most enchanting, horrifying, wanted, unwanted, first, last, gay, the kiss of a cousin, lover, rapist, prostitute, etc. We want the reader to share the experience. Send SASE for guidelines: Little River Publishing, 19 Parkwood Road, Hanover CT 06350.

Bi Penpals Sought

Make a friend, share an interest, meet vacation partners, exchange visits, meet the person(s) of your dreams, do some bisexual community networking.... To participate: describe yourself, your personality, interests, hobbies, likes and dislikes on a piece of paper. You may include a recent photograph of yourself. All info will be kept confidential. We will try to match you with three compatible bisexual people to contact bi mail. Send your note and an SASE for replies to: O.C., PO Box 11248, Hilo HI 96721.

Places To Go...

SBWN is going to Las Vegas!

If enough people participate, that is.

At least three women have expressed interest in traveling as a group to Sin City during winter (January). We hope to get a group rate for hotel and/or air fare. We want to have fun, gamble and maybe promote bi visibility.

Join us! If you are interested, call the phone line and leave your name/number, or corral Lisa, Gayla or Staci at any meeting.

I'm betting this is going to be a great trip. (pardon the pun)

On The Road?

Southeastern Regional Bisexual Conference, on October 28-30, the *long* weekend (standard time changeover), at Camp Chestnut Ridge in Elfland, North Carolina. For more information, phone: 919-834-4494; write: NC Bisexual Network 1994 Conference, 207 S Elliott Rd, Suite 118, Chapel Hill NC 27514; e-mail: brownm@ils.unc.edu

Parade a Persona

Come celebrate your body and its joy in movement! Reveal your divinity—the real you! Come to a nudist, creative undress costume dance party for women only. Eclectic dance music, body painting, delectable munchies. An erotic evening, NOT a sex party! A clothing-optional, smoke-free, chem-free benefit for Crossroads Learning Center, Saturday November 19, 8pm to midnight. $5 to $15 admission; you must preregister for this event by calling Crossroads Learning Center at 325-8790.

Non-Monogamous Perspectives Sought

This is a call for articles for a book on **'Non-Monogamy and Relationship Diversity.'** It will include both analytical and personal articles, and is intended for a wider than purely academic audience. The editors are two women and one man, with either practical experience or a research interest in the area. We all felt that there was a severe lack of useful published material for people trying to live in responsible non-monogamous relationships, and intend that this book will provide support for such people and promote this lifestyle as a valid alternative. We have gaps in the following areas:

Historical context: influence of religions, 'primitive' cultures, the changing conventions of Western society, oppression, etc.;

Non-monogamy in feminist theory;

The state of the 'poly' movement internationally.

The aim of this book is to explore theoretical contexts for alternatives to conventional Western monogamy, and practical experiences and proposals for non-monogamous relationships.

Articles of up to 3000 words are solicited, although longer articles may be accepted if they offer particular insights.

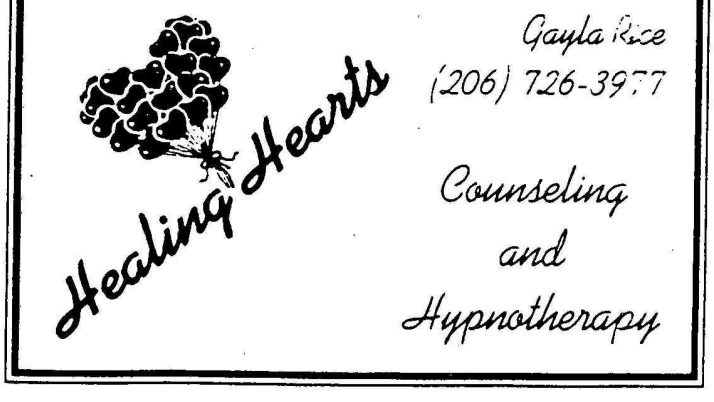
We need **final drafts by the end of October 1994**, and initial drafts as soon as possible. Mail address: K. Lano, Hazelmount, Church Rd,. Binstead, Isle of Wight, PO33 3TB, UK.

e-mail: kcl@doc.ic.ac.uk

More Pussy Galore!

Saturday, November 19, 8pm-8am.

Come join a few hundred women in costume, lingerie, skin and attitude for an all-night bash at the South End Steambath in Seattle's Pioneer Square! Demos, dancers, videos, refreshments, and whatever personal entertainment you're so bold to ask for. Cost $15; $13 in advance at Pink Zone and Toys in Babeland. For more info call the Pussy HOTline: 223-6030.



Queer Greeting Cards

In this month of coming out celebrations, here's something to make it a little easier! Triangle Cards, a new line of greeting cards, are now available from a gay-owned specialty company out of Albuquerque, NM. There is "The Coming Out Collection" and "The Celebrating Life Collection." For more info, write to Triangle Cards, PO Box 80244, Albuquerque, NM 87198. ▼

WOMEN'S FUNDING ALLIANCE

Giving at the Office

Every Fall many of you have the opportunity to support the non-profit of your choice through payroll deduction programs at work. By naming the **Women's Funding Alliance (WFA)** as the recipient of all or part of your gift, you can ensure that your dollars will make a difference in the lives of women and their children. **100% of workplace payroll deductions to WFA are allocated to its ten member organizations. These organizations provide essential services for women and children by addressing such issues as domestic violence, sexual assault, and gender discrimination.**

Large local and regional employers have two types of payroll deduction programs. In 'United Way only' campaigns, employees can contribute to WFA by writing in the Women's Funding Alliance on the 'Donor Option' line of the United Way pledge card. In 'open' campaigns, WFA, along with other alternative funds and federations, is listed on the pre-printed pledge cards. In these campaigns, WFA participates alongside other funds and federations, including United Way.

If your workplace is not yet 'open' and you would like it to be, give WFA a call (467-6733). WFA can work with you to expand your donor options. Call too if you're interested in representing WFA at your workplace this fall. ▼

DIGNITY OF A WOMAN

by Regina E Strong

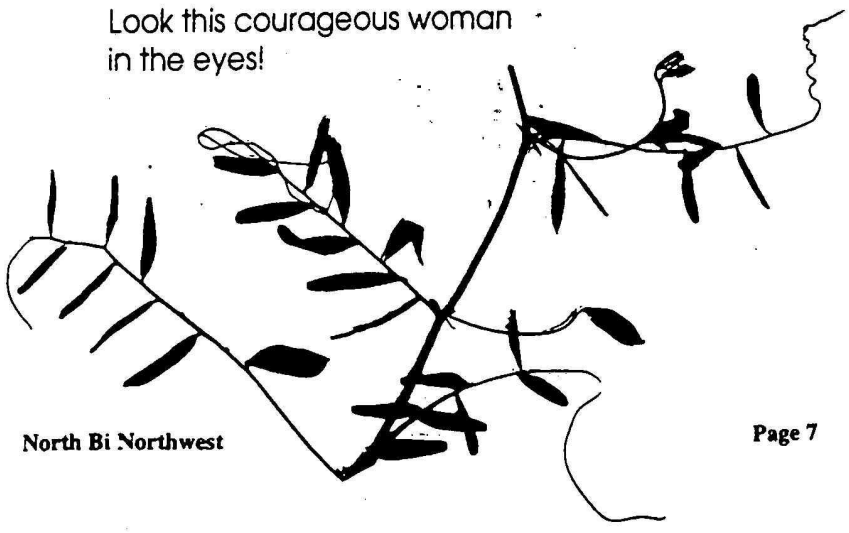
I am still alive.
I can stand and face you.
The heat of the pain
crystalized into anger.

The man of nature made assumptions
continuing until my plea grew weak.
The terror poured from me
as blood does.
I felt my body pulse
and thought I would vomit.

My honor lost,
violent electricity filled my lungs.
I became your whore.
Nothing more than a pawn;
shifted to one position
and placed in another.
Dragged down a river.
Drowning down a river of hate.

For Earth's love,
I want to reclaim what was taken.
All the dignity lost.
To heal the pain of being possessed
as I remember screaming deep within a river.
I picture myself struggling against the current,
losing breath and begging to be spared.

I am not a pawn to be sacrificed
for your twisted ritual.
I am not a whore.
You bastard!
Look this courageous woman
in the eyes!



Me, Ourself and Us!

by Merrie

Coming out of the closet is a terrifying thing, especially if you want or need to come out about more than one thing. I an 54 now, and for the vast majority of that time, I had to hide being lesbian and MPD (multiple personality disorder). It is a fad these days to tell people you are MPD, but it is not that way for us, and we don't want people to know it if they have no part in our life because there is no reason to. If we have to let anyone know, we do it without shame. We refer to ourself (yes ourself) because we are one being physically, and that is what people see. Even though we always wanted to be able to say 'we' or 'us,' we couldn't because people would question that, just as they do now.

MPD is much more common than thought, and it is ultra misunderstood. It is not much like what you see in movies; rather, it is subtle most of the time with us. We slip in and out of alternates without most people even knowing it. We are in therapy and have been for 8 1/2 years to integrate and are doing well, even though it is tedious, scary, and upsetting most of the time. We do, however, feel a sense of joy just knowing that we are healing and that it doesn't matter any more what people think.

Our MPD manifested because we were badly sexually abused by close family members (dad, two adult cousins, and our brother). MPD is very common amongst incest survivors. Our mother was physically and emotionally brutal to our brother and us, so that added to our need to split away. One minute she would tell our brother and us we were all she lived for, and the next, she would call us her shit kids. She shot herself to death eventually, so what kind of message to us! We weren't even worth her staying alive!

We had to create alternatives to handle things for us that were far too hard to be with. Sarah, Alan, and Cappy (the captain) hold our anger and assertiveness while the little girls hold our pain: DeeDee (4), Marie (8), Irene (10), Cheri or Cheryl (12), and Emma Leigh (14). The adult who feels our pain and can finally cry is Judy. Then there is CJ (Carol Jo) who handles our sexuality. She is the only sexual one. Julie is the fun one most people see. She is very fun and easy to be with.

We don't know why we are lesbian and don't care, but it has occurred to us it may be because men treated us the terrible way they did when we were little girls. Dad started in on us when we were too little to even climb into the tub. He would soap us up in the bath so we would be easily molested. He impregnated us when we were 14, but we miscarried at about four months, thankfully.

We think we are lesbian, period, and it doesn't really matter if we are this way because of our feelings about men in a sexual way. We know a lot of really wonderful decent men, but we are just not sexually attracted to them. And we never have been. Those men ruined us for being able to have healthy feelings about almost everyone.

We met 'X' through a mutual friend, and we right away formed a really close, fun, consuming relationship, so the day she came out of the closet and told us she was in love with us was the most glorious day of our up-to-them meaningless life. We couldn't believe she said that! So we came out then too, and we never once worried about whether or not our friends or family would accept that in us. It swelled us up inside to find none had a negative reaction! We are NEVER going back into the darkness.

How's that for coming out!!!

Reprinted from *Skagit Gay Times*
Issue 7, Vol 3, July 1994
GLBS, 1500A East College Wy #458,
Mt. Vernon, WA 98273.

Becoming more myself and more out

by Peggy Walsh

In 1976 I moved to Seattle from Philadelphia, which I found to be a very liberating move. I had a new job, a new home, in time a new partner, and the freedom to do whatever and be whoever I wanted. Within a year I was volunteering (still do) with New Beginnings women's shelter, dealing with domestic violence from the other side, having previously been in a seriously (nearly murderously) abusive relationship. There I found my first feminist community, women who consciously lived their own lives. There I discovered the *culture* of women loving women, as well as put to rest the demons of my own abusive relationship and turned their energy to helping others.

In 1984 I answered an ad in a disreputable magazine *(Fantasies)* and found my avenue to the beginnings of the Seattle Bisexual Women's Network. As SBWN has grown, so have I.

One of my best benefits from this group and its extensions is community. I've found this especially helpful in the past couple of years, as I've not had a regular job and the community that goes with it. I've found it reassuring to be among others, not necessarily unemployed, but alternatively employed, people with the courage and insight to make their own paths through life. In fact, through my association with bisexual groups, I feel more affinity as a non-mainstream person than as a bisexual person. I've found my own culture—found that I *am of a culture,* and began meeting others of my own kind. In the support of this community, and with their respect and recognition and love, I have become more *myself.*

In the past few years, a time of *major personal upheaval* for me (at my most cynical, seeing myself partnerless, homeless, jobless, friendless...), the relationships I've developed through Seattle's (and beyond) bisexual communities have sustained me. (I'm still partnerless, but who cares; jobless, but managing; not homeless, loverless or friendless. Thank you.)

My involvement with *North Bi Northwest* has provided a major coming-out venue for me around bisexuality. People ask what I'm doing these days, and I can hand them a copy of the newsletter, and go on from there.

NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY... OCTOBER 11

Coming Out as Celibate

by Carol Lindstrom

After more than a year in SBWN, I am in some ways no closer to understanding my own personal sexuality than I was before. In other ways, I am quite clear.

The question that comes up for me is, where does celibacy fit into the picture? Is celibacy queer? Or can celibate people partake of heterosexual privilege just as blasphemously as lesbians say that bi folks do?

For myself, my interest in having a sexual relationship with a man has declined enormously over the past few years. I haven't yet met a woman who I desired to be sexually involved with (beyond the level of an infatuation). In all, I just feel like I am in a phase where I do not want to "make it" with anybody. And that's where I fall into a societal taboo. It's okay to be celibate if you are unhappy about it, or if you are divorcing or recovering from sexual abuse (or in some overt transition). But there is no socially acceptable way to say "I really prefer to be alone." At least I haven't found my comfort zone in society yet.

Another dynamic is involved with this. Even by the time this article is being published, I could have broken my 8-year long stretch of celibacy. Or I might go another 8 years. I'm not invested in the idea of being sexually inactive, it is simply a choice I make, and have made since 1986. It's not really a lifestyle as much as something you fall into.

I occasionally ask myself, "what am I doing attending SBWN meetings if I'm not sexually active?" The answer I come up with is that, in SBWN, women are accepted based on their own self-identification. If I want to be there, then I'm welcome. I don't have to defend or define myself in order to be accepted. I also find SBWN to be populated by some of the strongest, most intelligent, bravest, and most pragmatic women I have ever met. Whether that is indicative of all bisexuals, I don't know, but I do know that SBWN is a good place for me. ▼

Long Absence, Lots to say

by Peggy Walsh

There's a new man in my life and I'm falling in love! I didn't expect it to be like this; when we've been together for a day or an evening and then I go home, I profoundly miss him. I long to touch, hold hands, hug. I dream powerful strong dreams with connection messages. I devour the sight of him in our recent photos. I want more! This man is 29 years old, and he is my son whom I have just met.

When we last (first) saw each other, he was just a babe—only days old. During the time I was pregnant with him, I knew he was not to be my child; I was just carrying him for someone else whose child he would be. When he went off to his new parents and I went on to my own growing up, I didn't suffer the empty-arms syndrome I've heard of—women longing for their lost child. I don't think I'm hard-hearted, just practical. I trusted he would be well cared for, as he indeed was.

Now I'm reminded of how women speak of the bonding with their newborn infants, how they gaze into each other's eyes and nothing else exists. They are the most important people on earth to one another. I'm astounded to find this happening here, after all this time!

We'd talked on the phone several times in the past year, and I expected we'd like each other in person. Now that we've met, we *do* like each other, *a lot*, and I'm astonished at how very like one another we are in temperament and attitude.

There are a number of people who have known me a long time, mostly east coast friends and relatives and west coast co-workers, who never knew I'd had a child thirty years ago. It wasn't a secret, but was not easy to explain a missing child, so I usually just didn't mention it. This year I've felt the exhilaration that comes with 'coming out.' As I have spread the word (proud new parent/grandparent) of my new status, and this wonderful person I'm getting to know, and be known by, my life is lightened, even as releasing secrets of sexuality does.

Speaking of being out, he phoned me last week. After the preliminaries of, 'I meant to call you sooner,' 'Well, I meant to write to you before now...,' he said he knew I did gay rights work, and wanted to assure me it was OK with him. I was stunned with astonishment. After all these years, we had so little time together last summer, and we hadn't got to that part yet. It turns out he read tiny clues around me and figured it out.

So in what, as I reread it, I see amounts to a love letter to him, I tell all, including the truth of his origin (I was raped when waiting for a bus), and of my dating women as well as men. I don't like Big Secrets, anyhow, as they cause all sorts of blockage in a person's life.

There are safety issues to consider when 'coming out' around controversial issues, like variations in one's sexuality. All the more reason to work on amending public perception to include non-mainstream choices as normal! The rush of freedom has been worth the risks I've taken in showing my real self to the world, even where the reception was not positive. ▼

Liz Nania

Dear Answer Amazons,

Eighteen months ago I met Susan. Over the next few months Susan and I started dating, and became sexual partners. After six months, I was dumped, pretty unceremoniously. I was in love, but Susan thought we were just 'friends who fucked.'

Over time, I got over it, and started dating again. I have since met the woman of my dreams. Paige is loving, caring, listens, talks, shares. I often feel I could give up anything for her! She moved in last month, and we're planning our wedding and honeymoon (especially the honeymoon!).

Now the problem: My friend Carol met Susan two months ago, and has started seeing her. I find that I'm distant with Carol; I don't return her calls, and I hesitate to make plans with her. Of course she talks about Susan, and I don't want to hear it. My heart hurts, and I feel jealous. I haven't told Carol how I feel.

Am I being petty, to think Carol should NOT be seeing Susan? I'm over Susan; I don't feel love for her any more.

Can I ask Carol to stop seeing Susan? What about talking with Susan, and asking HER to stop seeing Carol?

Please help me.

Losing My Friends

Let's face it, we all have our problems. Whether it's a perilous polyfidelity predicament or simply how to shop for latex, North bi Northwest *is here to help. In keeping with the spirit of bisexuality, we offer more than one reply to each question. Send your queeries to our PO Box; our wisdom-mongers are standing bi...*

Dear Losing,

Not only are you being petty, you're being angry and vindictive. It isn't any easier for goddesses, as the Great Mother lets me know all the time, but you need to complete that relationship with Susan. 'I'm over Susan,' you say—but, 'I feel jealous!'? Sorry, dear, that sounds to me as though you haven't forgiven her. Forgiving people for whatever we need to let go of means being over them—that we don't get hooked every time we hear about them.

Try this one: What would it take for you to support Carol and Susan having a great relationship? I'd suggest that if you did whatever that is, it would also guarantee a great relationship between you and Paige. Isn't that worth giving up your anger?

Love,

Aphrodite

My Dearest 'Losing My Friends,'

My best advice for you is: Thank Susan for dumping you. Tell her she was instrumental in your finding the woman of your dreams. As for Carol, give her the freedom to be with Susan. If she is a good friend, be there for her when she also gets dumped by Susan.

If your heart hurts and you feel jealous when Carol talks about Susan, you may not be over Susan yet. Why is it that we find jerks hard to forget? Please don't allow Susan to hurt you any more. Don't spend one more precious second of your time and energy fretting over her present and future lovers, even if they are your friends. Let your attitude be, 'So what. So who cares.' Do yourself and your future love life a favor. Forget her! Get over it! Life is short enough; don't waste it.

Don't let the past interfere with the present woman of your dreams. Why is it that we take loving and caring women for granted? If you are sure you love Paige, do get married. Go on a honeymoon to outdo all honeymoons. Get wild! Make love all night! Love until you get satisfaction and more.

Please write and tell me all about your honeymoon. The Queen of Love needs her kicks, too. My best to you and your wonderful Paige.

Queen of Love

Body Image & Identity in the Queer Community(ies)

What does it mean to 'look gay' or 'look like a dyke?' How are our standards different from the mainstream culture's? When are we just parodying the media image? What place does the S/M look have in this discussion? What about the fear of fat in both men's and women's communities? Why are so many fat activists lesbian or bisexual women? Are 'lipstick lesbians' just perpetuating the exploitation of women?

Anthology needs material on relation between appearance, body & queer identity. Send articles or inquiries to Dawn Atkins, PO Box 861, Iowa City, IA 62244-0861. Deadline is December 1, 1994.

News from the Sexual Orientation Battlefields

The **University Congregational Church** in Seattle recently got a lot of publicity, for accepting a gay male couple as Associate Minister, in June. Great news and all that, but the Broadview Congregational Church has had a bisexual woman minister for many years. She and her woman partner are very much an accepted part of the church community.

In Brazil, that South American country with the largest Catholic population in the world, **two gay male and one lesbian couple were married** by Omaldo Pereira, of the church Christian Pacifist Community. And same-sex marriage should soon be legal in Greenland. Since it is a self-governing dependency of Denmark, and Denmark legalized gay and lesbian marriage in 1989, this really shouldn't be a surprise. (San Francisco Bay Times, 16/6/94 and Just Out, 17/6/94)

Pairs of people can register as **Domestic Partners now in Seattle.** The measure is largely symbolic, and means Seattle would recognize those in committed relationships, including lesbians, gays, unmarried heterosexuals, and, presumably, bisexuals.

Couples can register by applying at the city clerk's office, getting a form notarized, and returning it with a $25 fee. Each must be the other's 'sole domestic partner.' On the first day this service was available, ninety couples signed up.

There is provision under this ordinance for dissolution of these partnerships, i.e. 'divorce.' For information, phone 206-684-0390.

Hey, we in Washington weren't the only ones to make **anti-queer ballot measures fail!** Radical Right groups in Arizona, Maine, Michigan, Missouri, Nevada, and (thank the universal life force) Washington, failed to gather enough signatures to qualify for the November elections. An initiative in Florida was ruled invalid by that state's Supreme Court, and an announced initiative in Ohio never appeared. On the negative, initiatives in Oregon and Idaho have qualified for the ballot, though the one in Oregon has been ruled unconstitutional by Marion County Circuit Court, and is on appeal to a higher court. (*Skagit Gay Times*, Issue 8 V3 Aug 1994)

Under the "like I really need a second mother" category, the list of US jurisdictions with **second-parent adoptions** now stands at thirteen: Alaska, California, DC, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Rhode Island, Texas, Vermont, and Washington. All joking aside, this really is good news for same-sex couples that want to legally share responsibility for their child(ren). (GLPCi Network, Winter '93-94)

A judge in Connecticut ruled that the Pentagon's **"don't ask, don't tell" policy discriminates** against queers, and has permanently barred military recruiters from The University of Connecticut Law School. That state actually has a law barring state agencies and institution from helping any employer that discriminates against homosexuals. (XTRA West, No 25, July 29, 1994)

In a huge step backwards, a **woman** in Springfield, MA, has been **charged with rape** of another woman. She allegedly held a gun to the victim's head, and used her hand to rape her. (XTRA West, No 25, July 29, 1994)

It looks like **dress codes are still out there.** A 'still male' transsexual lost his right to wear a pink pearl necklace, because it was in violation of the company dress code. But this person, as well as anyone of any sex, CAN wear: lipstick, pantyhose, earrings, makeup, and clear nail polish. What, was pink too radical a color? (XTRA West, No 25, July 29, 1994)

GAY COMMUNITY SOCIAL SERVICES
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a Mid-Autumn's Night
CABARET

OCTOBER 15, 1994 8:00 PM

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suggested donation: $10-$25 (pay what you can)

GAY COMMUNITY SOCIAL SERVICES provides an umbrella organization to make nonprofit, tax-exempt status available to small projects, while creating a resource infrastructure for gay community organizations.

Do you recognize any of our current projects?
DYKE-TV ▼ Heart to Art ▼ League for Lesbian and Gay Prisoners ▼ Lesbian Assistance Project ▼ Lesbian Health Network ▼ Northwest Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Employee Network ▼ RFD Quarterly ▼ The Coming Out Process: Women 30 Years and Older ▼ Seattle Lesbian Cancer Project ▼ Seattle Bisexual Women's Network ▼ United Front Against Facism

New Form of Directions—January 1, 1913

MADAME LE MAY'S FRENCH FORMULA

Antiseptic Vaginal Suppositories

FOR THE RELIEF AND CURE OF

Leucorrhœa, Gonorrhœa, Prolapsus, or Falling of the Womb, Inflammation, Congestion, Anteversion, Retroversion, Dropsy of the Womb, Ulceration, Polypus, Tumors, Profuse and Difficult Menstruation, Ovarian Tumors, Fibroid Tumors, Inflammation and Congestion of the Ovaries, Cancers in their early days, Laceration of Cervix (due to child-birth) and other Female Complaints in general. A remedy of great medicinal value and has been used in hundreds of the most severe cases, producing instant relief followed by a speedy cure. The secret of our success lies in the application of the Suppository directly to the diseased parts, where the medication can be continued for hours at a time, acting as safe and harmless as a flax-seed poultice, which is a great advantage over any remedies which are applied by injecting with syringes. It can be used at all times. These Suppositories are a protection from Veneral Diseases, and as an antiseptic are far superior and more convenient to use than Bichloride of Mercury Tablets.

Important Before using our Suppository, we desire you to read very carefully the directions for using the same, so that you obtain good results at once. If you cannot live up to them, you will only be wasting your time and money without getting any returns for your investment.

We Do Not Claim that one box of our Suppository will cure all cases, but very often it does not require that many; if the first box gives you relief you should be satisfied and obtain more of them at once, and continue using them according to directions until you are entirely cured.

General Directions Before going to bed remove the wax paper from the Suppository, and insert it into the vagina, using the fore-finger to crowd it up as far as you can reach, allow it to remain over night and in the morning take a liberal injection of warm water: this treatment should be continued every night until entirely cured, and in obstinate cases should be used both night and morning.

As a Preventative or Protection from Veneral Diseases Insert a Suppository into the vagina about 10 or 15 minutes before having sexual intercourse, as it requires that much time to dissolve, then afterwards take a liberal injection of warm water, which need not be taken for 7 or 8 hours afterwards if inconvenient to do so at once, and you will have a reliable protection from any Veneral Diseases, even if you do not use the injection of warm water, as this is not absolutely necessary. The remedy acts as a protection to male as well as female, and their use can be continued for years without any injurious effects whatever; if you doubt this statement, show the remedy to your physician and see if he will not say that our remedy is a reliable one, as we do not object to give our formulæ to any physician.

The foregoing instructions are general, and we wish to say to anyone using the Suppository who fails to make satisfactory progress, please write us, fully describing your case, and we will take pleasure in giving additional instructions in detail by letter, in strict confidence, but be sure to always enclose a two-cent stamp to insure a prompt reply, and send us the name of the Druggist from whom you bought the remedy.

Melted Suppositories Should you at any time get a box of Suppositories that are melted or run together, or old stock that are not in perfect condition, we will replace them free of charge if you will kindly mail the melted ones to us. If they have become soft in warm weather, lay them in cold water a few minutes before using them. This will harden them nicely.

$1.00 A BOX—SIX BOXES FOR $5.00

Sent securely sealed, charges prepaid on receipt of price, which can be sent by mail with perfect safety. You can remit in postage stamps for small amounts. It is not necessary to register letters with money, as we never yet have lost any letters in the mails.

Our remedy is sold by some of the leading druggists, but if they try to palm something else on you under the plea that "it's just as good," send your orders direct to us, and we will forward the goods the same day the order is received.

Guaranteed by

GARDEN CITY DRUG CO.

MISSOULA, MONT.

under the Food and Drugs Act, June 30, 1906. SERIAL NUMBER 43529

Relax, now. Check the date on this before you get too anxious. Although, this is probably what our grandmas had to deal with. And is our 1994 U.S. Food and Drug agency any more careful with us?

Sneeze betrays spy at bi men's group

by Drew

The regular monthly meeting of the Seattle Bisexual Men's Union was ANYTHING but regular this past Monday night!!

The meeting began as usual around 7pm. The topic was to be a discussion of class and social status, and their influence on sexuality and expression thereof. About a dozen men were in attendance, and about twenty minutes into the meeting, a strange, muffled sound was heard which stopped the discussion. The noise seemed to emanate from the back of the room, and sounded almost like a sneeze.

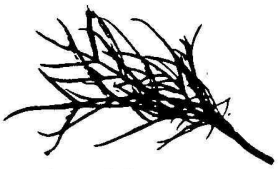
Group leader, ben raviv checked outside the room and around the back of the room, thinking there might be someone who was having trouble finding the door to get in (there are two). Other group members speculated that it may have been the radiator. Finally it was decided that the noise was probably made by one of the members' bicycles which was leaning against a table. Discussion continued for another ten minutes or so until a second, LOUDER noise was heard. This time it DEFINITELY sounded like a sneeze!

Before anyone could make any further speculation as to where the sounds were coming from, a muffled voice called out, 'Well, if you're going to eavesdrop, it's not cool to be allergic!!' All eyes turned to the back of the room where a woman's arm came out from behind one of the bookcases along the back wall! Two of the men from the group jumped up to help move the bookcase so she could get out from behind it. A VERY embarrassed young woman with dark hair, wearing a red and black t-shirt ran from behind the bookcase, sneezing and coughing. She briefly explained (between sneezes) that she started dating a bisexual man, and after finding out about our group, was interested to hear what kind of things bi guys talk about!! We implored her to stay and join the discussion, apologizing to her that the particular topic of the evening was not especially interesting. We told her it was too bad she didn't happen to eavesdrop on our discussions on oral sex, masturbation, or underwear! But she refused to even consider staying, apologized profusely, and left in a rush. We even tried calling after her to tell her to meet us AFTER the meeting at Cafe Cielo on Broadway, but she didn't show up there either.

We reckoned she had been hiding back there for at least 45 minutes, since the first group member to arrive (a first-time attendee, no less!) said he had been there since 6:45pm, and, not sure if he was in the right place, wandered around the room, and even looked at some of the books in the bookcase!! So she must have been back there even before that!

Needless to say, it was difficult to focus on the topic for the rest of the evening! To our knowledge, this is the first time either SBMU, SBWN, or BiNet meetings have been infiltrated by 'spies!' ben quipped after she left the building, 'OK, the revolution has been postponed until we can rectify this security leak!'

By the way, SBMU meetings ARE open to any interested parties, but please join us on the couches and chairs, they're MUCH more comfortable, and less dusty, than behind the bookshelves!!



Good News Hometown

Hey, want to increase the property values in your neighborhood? Move more queers in! Some hetero residents in Azalea Park, San Diego, led a campaign to actively attract lesbians and gay men to their neighborhood. One resident explained, "We know that gays are good neighbors—they take care of their property and they're community-minded." About a dozen Azalea Park residents marched in the San Diego gay pride parade, carrying a banner saying "Gays Welcome." They also handed out information on their neighborhood at a booth at the rally afterwards. Can Bellevue be far behind? (*Lesbian Connection*, V16 Issue 4, J/F 1994)

Advertising

North Bi Northwest welcomes advertising from bi-friendly businesses, individuals, organizations and services. Our advertising rates are as follows:

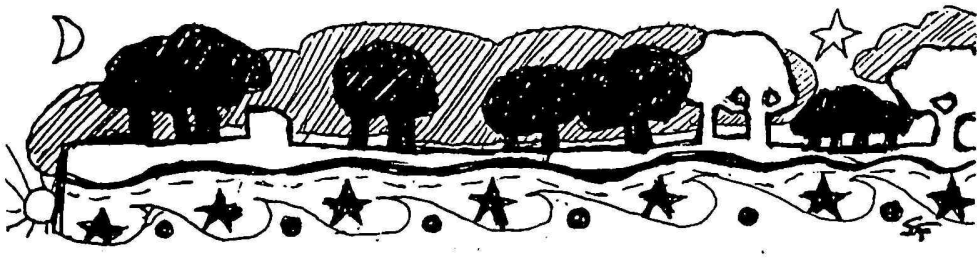
Business card size: $10/issue
Quarter page: $20/issue
Half page: $40/issue
Full page: $80/issue

2 consecutive issues: 15% discount
3 consecutive issues: 30% discount

For more information call (206) 783-7987 & leave a message.

Dream/Dance

by Jill Seidenstein

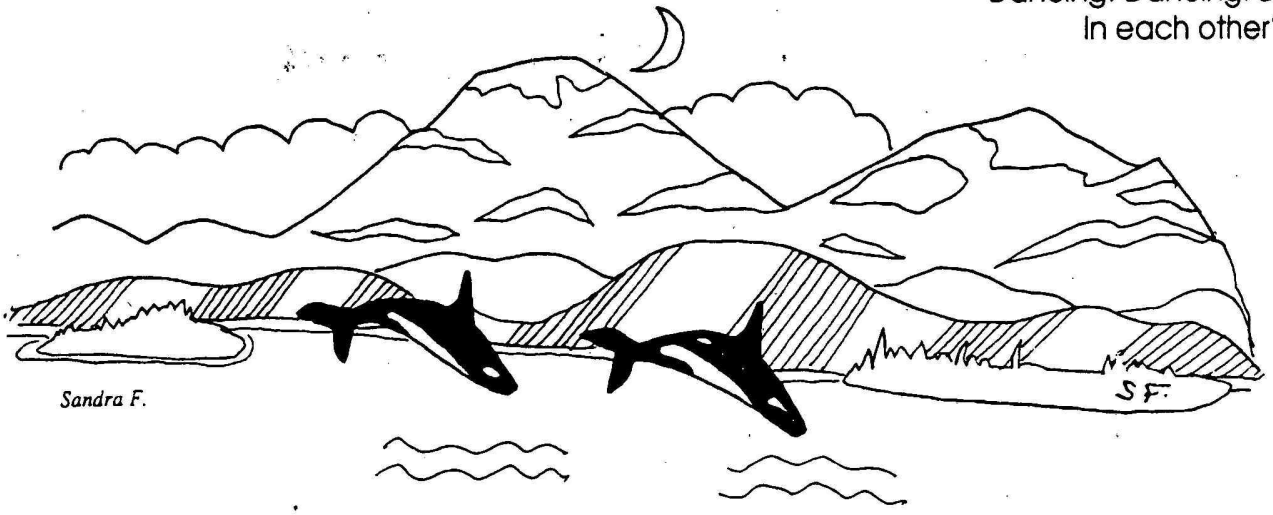


I have many
Dreams.
Last week, for instance, we
Swam
with Orcas.
My heart filled with wonder &
Joy to be connecting with
their power.

I think they sang
Serenading our Dance.
They danced while we
Sang.
The veracity scared me
Out
of the water.
Yet, I knew - this time -
where to find
the shore.

Your arms offer safe harbor.
We are not two ships
passing
in the night.
That would be
my X
and the world.

We live in
the moment.
Experience All Things - fully.
Dancing with the molecules.
Dancing with the stars.
Dancing. Dancing. Dancing.
In each other's arms.



Sandra F.

Never More Than Friends

by L.H.

Whenever you are near, my friend
My awakened heart rushes and ebbs
Like waves pounding on the sand
Dreams of tender and hot passion
Jnvade my mind with a reflection
Of the moon and the tides in action
This longing will forever remain
Jn the deepest recess of my brain
Not to surface and always refrained
Never risking your loss, my friend

Out on Stage

It seems that everyone is coming out as gay, lesbian, or bisexual these days, but **David Bowie** is retracting his earlier claim. "I think I was always a closet heterosexual. I didn't ever feel that I was a real bisexual. It was like I was always making all the moves, down to the situation of actually trying it out.... I wanted to imbue Ziggy with real flesh and blood and muscle, and it was imperative that I find Ziggy and be him. The irony of it was that I was not gay." (from New Plymouth, New Zealand, Daily News 27 May 1993) And also: "Although I no longer consider myself gay or even bisexual it shouldn't be assumed that therefore I have decided that heterosexual is correct and gay is wrong." (from CD International.)

Add to the list of musicians coming out: **Pete Shelley of the Buzzcocks; Perry Farrell of Porno for Pyros; Brett Anderson of Suede.** (Bi Way of Response, V2 #8, D/J 1994)

For the couch potatoes out there, a new drama series on ABC, ***My So-Called Life*** has a bisexual youth as a major character. Rickie, played by Wilson Cruz, can be found in the girls bathroom, putting on eye-liner and perfume, without comment from the other girls. He is also harassed by some older boys in the high school. Of course one parent is shown saying "He's just confused."

This Just in from Mars

The openly heterosexual former football player, O.J. Simpson, was arrested last month and charged with the murder of his former wife and her companion. The arrest sent shock waves throughout the heterosexual community, as the charges against one of its most popular icons revived old stereotypes that surround the heterosexual lifestyle.

'Wife beating is not equivalent to being heterosexual,' insisted Joe Eightpack, a spokesman for the Straight Alliance Against Defamation. 'While it is true that some heterosexuals engage in spousal abuse, it's still no more common among straights than among gays.' But opponents of heterosexual rights seized on the incident.

'Every year, hundreds of thousands of women are victims of this immoral subculture,' said the Rev. Leslie Gaylord, spokes-person for the Concerned Queer Folk of America. 'There appears to have been a heterosexual ring in Los Angeles, including the police force, that covered up this depraved activity for years. I'm particularly concerned about saving our children from this kind of example.'

Statistics suggest a large minority of heterosexual males are involved in some kind of domestic violence; one in four heterosexual relationships involves violence, with two to four million women affected each year.

Researchers who claim that heterosexuality is a choice and not—as some believe—involuntary, argue that this makes it even more important not to give social sanction to the activity. 'It's not heterosexuals that we are opposed to,' argues Gaylord, 'it's their self destructive lifestyle.'

(Adapted from Dianna Cicotella's scenario on America On-Line, printed in the July 30, 1994, I.C.T.L.E.P. Reporter.) ▼

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1808 Bellevue Ave. #204
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CALENDAR

For locations, confirmation, or more information, call the appropriate message machine and someone will get back to you (with discretion if requested). For SBWN events call (206) 783-7987. For all other Seattle events, (BiNet, SBMU, Polyfi, BiOut, etc.) Call (206) 728-4533.

*** denotes multi-gender events.**

Sun Oct 2-Second Bi 2nd. 12:30pm. DimSum Brunch @ LinYen, 7th S & S King St. *

Mon Oct 3-SBWN Newcomer meeting, 7:15pm. 'Coming Out In Style'.

Thu Oct 6-Bluestockings. 7pm @ Devra's, Wallingford. ***Don't Bet on the Prince*****, Jack Zipes.**

Sun Oct 9-SBWN Mtg. 6pm. 'Bisexuality & Marriage'.

Mon Oct 10-SBMU meeting. 7pm. 'Coming Out: personal and political.'

Tue Oct 11-National Coming Out Day! Surprise Someone!!! *

Wed Oct 12-BiNet Mtg. 7pm @ Chris L's, Phinney Ridge. *

Wed Oct 12-SBWN live phone answer 6:30pm-9:30pm.

Sat Oct 15-GCSS Cabaret, 8pm, Russian Hall, Capitol Hill. *

Sun Oct 16-SBWN live phone answer 12-3pm.

Mon Oct 17-SBWN Newcomer meeting 7:15pm. 'Sexual Identity: a private matter or a public issue?'.

Sun Oct 23-SBWN Mtg. 6pm. 'Telling the Kids.'

Fri Oct 28-SBMU social. Hallowe'en party, details tba.

Mon Oct 31-SBWN Newcomer meeting 7:15pm. 'Bisexual Ghost Stories: an open rap'.

Wed Nov 2-Second Bi 2nd. Story reading, 6-9pm @ Fremont Library. *

Thu Nov 3-Bluestockings. 7pm @ Maria's, Capitol Hill. ***My Antonia*****, Willa Cather.**

Sun Nov 6-SBWN Mtg. 6pm. 'Bisexuality: sex or politics?'.

Mon Nov 7-SBWN Facilitator's collective meeting. 7pm @ Lisa's, Ballard.

Wed Nov 9-BiNet. 7pm @ Denise's, Fremont. *

Thu Nov 10-SBWN Board mtg. 7pm @ Lizabeth's, Wallingford.

Sat Nov 12-Polyfidelity potluck. 6:30pm. Pilgrim Congregational Church.

Mon Nov 14-SBWN Newcomer meeting 7:15pm. 'Bisexual Lifestyle Myths'.

Mon Nov 14-SBMU meeting. 7pm. 'Bi Politics.'

Sat Nov 19-Pussy Galore, 8pm-8am.

Sat Nov 19-Parade a Persona, 8pm-midn.

Sun Nov 20-SBWN Mtg. 6pm. 'Surviving Sexual Abuse'.

Mon Nov 21-SBWN live phone answer 6:30pm-9:30pm.

Fri Nov 25-Bi-folks Harvest potluck. *

Mon Nov 28-SBWN Newcomer meeting 7:15pm. 'Women & Casual Sex'.

Fri Dec 2-Second Bi 2nd. Game night. 7pm @ Lizabeth's, Wallingford.

Sun Dec 4-SBWN Mtg. 6pm. 'Celibacy...'.

Thu Dec 8-Bluestockings. 7pm @ Lizabeth's, Wallingford. *Silent Spring*, Rachel Carson.

Mon Dec 12-SBWN Newcomer meeting 7:15pm. 'How "Out" are you?'

Mon Dec 12-SBMU mtg. 7pm. 'Ideal Family.'

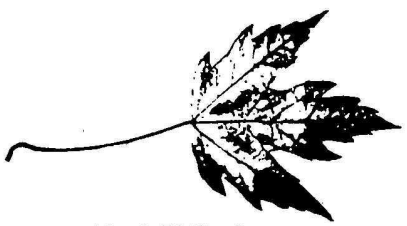
Sun Dec 18-SBWN Mtg. 6pm. 'Bi Community'.

Mon Dec 26-SBWN Newcomer meeting.

Sat Dec 31-New Year's Eve... *

Sun Jan 1-SBWN Mtg. 6pm. 'Spirituality'.

Mon Jan 2-Second bi 2nd. Movie Night. *



Local Groups at Your Service

SBWN (Seattle Bisexual Women's Network) Support and discussion groups on alternate Sundays, 6pm, and Newcomer meetings on alternate Mondays, 7:15pm. For more information, call our message machine. Note our occasional live phone answer times.

Bluestockings: SBWN-affiliated feminist women's reading group meets monthly. They try to alternate between fiction and non-fiction.

SBMU (Seattle Bisexual Men's Union): a men's anti-sexist support and social group with discussion meetings on second Mondays of the month at Pilgrim Congregational Church, room 304 (enter from 10th Av), and social events on fourth Fridays of the month (location varies).

Polyfidelity Group: Discussion, stories, literature, philosophizing about multipartner relationships, responsible non-monogamy.

Second bi 2nd: a floating social event held on the second of every month. We go canoeing, read stories, listen to jazz, do brunch...

BiNet, the Bisexual Network of Seattle, is a multi-gender, multicultural profeminist group dedicated to providing information about bisexuality, promoting bisexual visibility, and developing community. BiNet has spun off several small social, support and special-interest groups.

BiOut Speakers Bureau is available for engagements at schools, businesses, counseling centers, churches, etc. to provide information and answer questions about bisexuality and bi organizations.